Closure of Steel Units

@1162.SHRI INDER KUMAR GUJRAL: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the write-up in the Economic Times of 23rd September, 1993 regarding closure of 78 steel units due to high levies apart from recession; and

(b) if so, what action is being taken to arrest this?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The performance of mini steel plants (electric arc furnace units) has been adversely affected due to various factors such as demand recession, shortage of power and increase in input costs including rise in international scrap prices. The industry has represented for various reliefs and the proposals made are under the consideration of Government.

Production of Bridge Coke

1163. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) what is the percentage of the generation of bridge coke at the stage of production of coke;

(b) what percentage of bridge coke generation is caused at the time of sizing of coke;

(c) what is the percentage of the total generated bridge coke being recycled and used by way of sinter; and

(d) what is the percentage of left out bridge coke which cannot be used in the Steel Plants?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) to (d) During carbonisation, the size fraction of coke generated depends to a large extent on quality of charge coal, thermal regime maintained in the coke ovens, operating parameters, health of the coke oven batteries, height and operating age of the batteries. Since these parameters vary from plant to plant, breeze coke generation also varies from plant to plant.

In the Integrated Steel Plants under Steel Authority of India Limited the percentage of breeze coke generation during coke making is around 4 to 8 per cent. and during sizing it is around 2 to 4 per cent.

During 1992-93, plant-wise data regarding overall generation of breeze coke, percentage recycled and percentage left out is as under :—

Plant	Generation of breeze coke (as a % of coke produced)	Breeze coke recycled (%)	Breeze coke left out (%)
BSP	6.0	100.0	—
DSP	4.6	100.0	—
RSP	12.9	38.2	61.8
BSL	10.7	93.1	6.9
IISCO	8.3	-*	100.0

(* There is no sinter plant)

@Previously Unstarred Question 453 transferred from 7-12-1993.